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**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION  
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**INTERCHANGEABLE TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE SS-X-18 TRANSPORT/LAUNCH CANISTER  
AND THE PROBABLE LAUNCH CONTROL CAPSULE  
FOR THE TYPE IIIX SILO  
USSR**

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**SEPTEMBER 1973**

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME					COUNTRY
Interchangeable Transport Equipment for the SS-X-18 Transport/Launch Canister and the Probable Launch Control Capsule for the Type IIX Silo					UR
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CATEGORY	BE NO.	COMIREX NO.	NIETB NO.
NA	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below
MAP REFERENCE					

ACIC. USATC, Series 200, scale 1:200,000 (see below for sheet)

LATEST IMAGERY USED

NEGATION DATE (If required)

NA

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**Installation**

Name	Coordinates
Balta Missile Support Rear Depot	475054N 0295349E
Berdichev Missile Support Rear Depot	495640N 0281752E
Bryansk Road Machinery & GM Support Equipment Plant 1	531449N 0342254E
Derazhnya SSM R/R Transfer Point	492105N 0271045E
Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center	482603N 0345821E
Pavlograd Solid Motor Test Facility	482605N 0355817E
Pavlograd Rocket Motor Assembly and Test Support Facility	482730N 0355700E
Pervomaysk SSM R/R Transfer Point	475822N 0305206E
Safonovo Plastics & Susp GM Components Plant	550520N 0331500E
Tyuratam Missile Test Center	455637N 0632755E
Voronezh Rocket Engine Test Facility	513425N 0390939E
Zhdanov Steel & RR Tank Car Plant	470834N 0373442E

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## ABSTRACT

1. The Soviet Union has developed interchangeable transport equipment for the SS-X-18 transport/launch canister and the probable launch control capsule for the type IIIX silo. The equipment consists of a specially configured three-car missile-associated train and a large roadable transporter.

2. This report deals briefly with the installations associated with the SS-X-18 and/or the type IIIX silo, but focuses primarily on the transport system itself.

3. Photographs, drawings, and a map with an attached chronology are included in this report.

## BASIC DESCRIPTION

4. Transport equipment, which can be used for either the SS-X-18 transport/launch canister or the probable launch control capsule (LCC) for the type IIIX silo,\* has been observed at ten Soviet missile-associated installations. Locations of these and other related installations are shown on Figure 1, along with a chronology of relevant activity. Transport equipment seen in association with the SS-X-18 transport/launch canister includes a unique three-car train for rail transport of the canister and an associated [ ] cylindrical object (Figure 2, mode 1), and a unique transporter for road transport of the canister (Figure 3, drawing). A drawing of the SS-X-18 transport/launch canister is provided in Figure 4. It has been determined that this transport equipment is for the SS-X-18 missile because, in May 1973, the unique [ ] canisters were observed at launch sites R8 and R11, Tyuratam Missile Test Center. These two launch sites are involved with SS-X-18 flight testing. The same transport equipment, the three-car missile-associated train and the transporter, also has been seen with the probable LCC for the type IIIX silo, and the associated 15-foot- and [ ] cylindrical objects (Figure 2, mode 2).

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## Three-Car Missile-Associated Train

5. A special flatcar arrangement, designated a three-car missile-associated train, is used to carry the transport/launch canister for the SS-X-18 missile, as well as the [ ] probable LCC for the type IIIX silo. There is one basic train configuration which can be adapted to two carrying modes. The two carrying modes are depicted in Figure 2, along with dimensions. Mode 1 is used to carry the [ ] SS-X-18 transport/launch canister, and an associated [ ] cylindrical object. Mode 2 is used to carry the [ ] probable LCC for the type IIIX silo, and two associated cylindrical objects. As depicted in Figure 2, the primary difference between the two carrying modes is the positioning of the associated cylindrical objects. Mode 1 uses the 45-foot flatcar equipped with cradles to carry the [ ] associated cylindrical object horizontally. Mode 2 uses the 45-foot flatcar configured with the positioning marks to carry the 15-foot-long associated cylindrical object horizontally and the [ ] associated cylindrical object vertically. It should also be noted that the [ ] associated cylindrical object in mode 1 has a band dividing it into a [ ] a 10-foot-long section. It is not known if the object can actually be separated at the band; however, if it can be separated the already apparent similarity between the objects carried in mode 1 and mode 2 would be reinforced.

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6. The three-car missile-associated train is produced at Zhdanov Steel and Railroad Tank Car Plant (Figure 2). The train has also been sighted at Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center, Safonovo Plastics and Suspect Guided Missile Components Plant, Pavlograd Rocket Motor Assembly and Test Support Facility, Tyuratam Missile Test Center, and Berdichev and Balta Missile Support Facilities (Figure 1).

## Transporter

7. Development of the transporter for the [ ] SS-X-18 transport/launch canister, and for the [ ] probable LCC for the type IIIX silo, took place at Bryansk Road Machinery and Guided Missile Support Equipment Plant 1. The Bryansk plant is known to be a design bureau for missile transport equipment. A provisional drawing of the transporter with basic dimensions is

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\*The possibility cannot be completely ruled out that the [ ] canister is the transport/launch canister for the SS-X-17.

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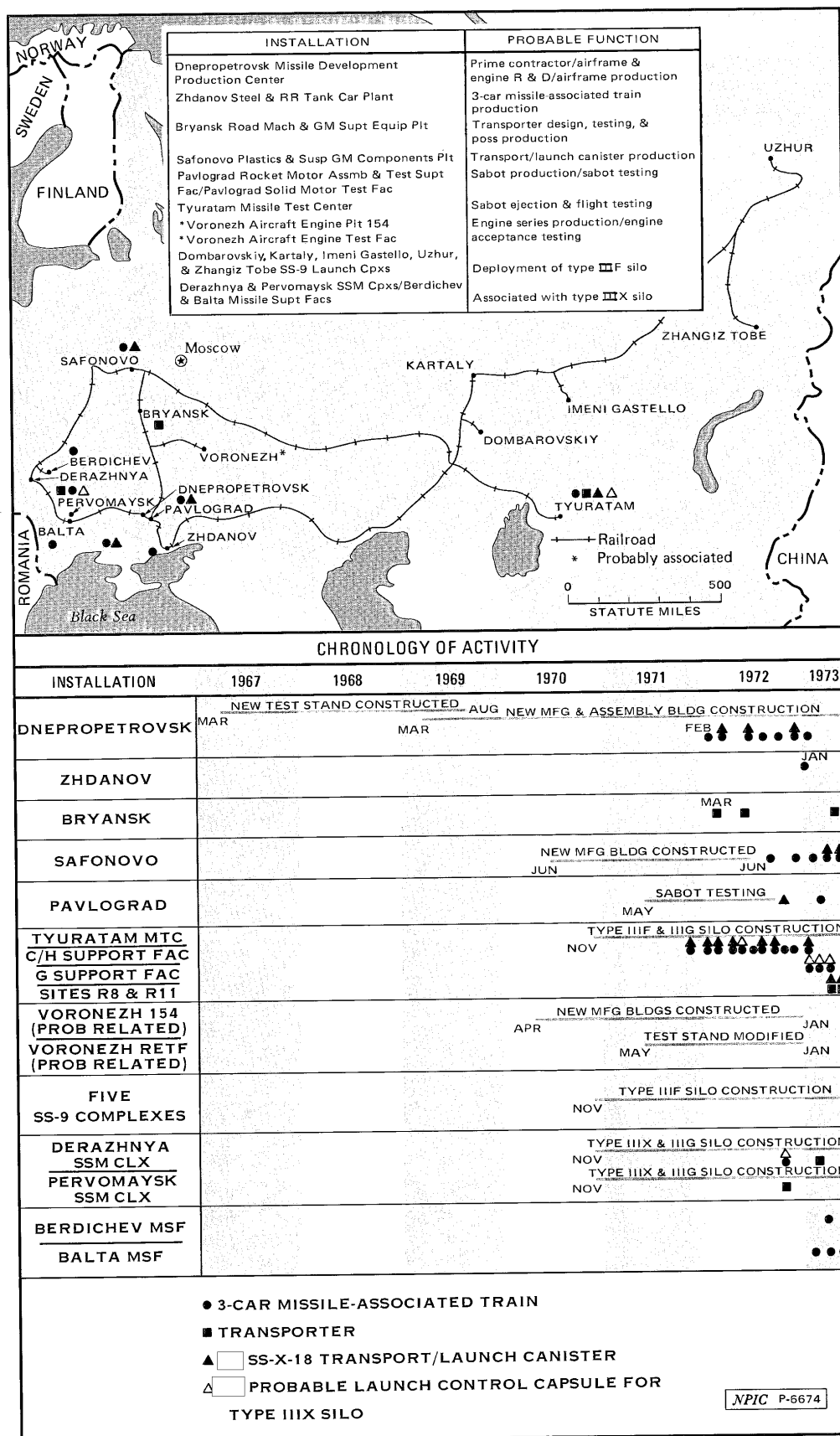


FIGURE 1. INSTALLATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SS-X-18 AND/OR THE TYPE IIIX SILO (Symbols indicate where SS-X-18 or type IIIX silo-associated equipment has been observed)

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shown in Figure 3. The transporter was first seen at Bryansk in March 1972 undergoing an exercise using a load simulator. The transporter with [redacted] load simulator on it was backed up to a girder-supported platform, but the load simulator was positioned on the platform (Figure 3). The Bryansk plant may be producing the transporter as well as testing it. In addition to the Bryansk plant, the transporter has been observed at launch sites R8 (Figure 3) and R11, and in G support area, Tyuratam Missile Test Center, and at Derazhnya and Pervomaysk SSM rail-to-road transfer points (Figure 1).

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SS-X-18 Transport/Launch Canister

8. In May 1973 the transport/launch canister, for the SS-X-18, was identified at launch sites R8 and R11 at Tyuratam Missile Test Center. Both launch sites are considered to be involved with flight testing of the SS-X-18 missile. The canister apparently is identical in size and configuration to the [redacted] objects which have been observed at Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development Production Center, Safonovo Plastics and Suspect GM Components Plant, Pavlograd Solid Motor Test Facility, and Launch Complex C/H Support Facility, Tyuratam Missile Test Center. These [redacted] objects previously have been referred to as a rocket motor and/or a launch canister and/or a missile airframe. A provisional drawing of the SS-X-18 transport/launch canister is provided in Figure 4. The canister, when seen at Pavlograd Solid Motor Test Facility, appeared to be made up of eight [redacted] segments, a [redacted] segment, and a final [redacted] segment. Flanges or rings are located at the points where segments join. Two extra flanges or rings, which are not located at previously seen segment joints, have no apparent function (Figure 4). It should be noted that the flanges or rings are not clearly defined on much of the photography of the canister. This is probably caused by varying sun angles, lighting conditions, and the presence of protective coverings such as tarpaulins on the canister. Two sets of probable parallel rails (Figure 4) have been observed along 25 [redacted] feet of one end of the canister. The probable parallel rails often have the appearance of being rectangular panels, which may be the result of stretching a tarpaulin over them. Figure 4 provides photographs of the SS-X-18 transport/launch canister with and without the probable parallel rails. Probable parallel rails on canister segments at Pavlograd Rocket Motor Assembly and Test Support Facility are also shown in Figure 4.

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REFERENCES

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DOCUMENT

1. GMAIC Attachment, USIB-D-33.4/64 *Soviet Missile Designators*, 9 Feb 73 (TOP SECRET RUFF [redacted])

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MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. USATC, Series 200, sheets 0234-21, 0249-7, 0167-18, 0167-7, 0234-22, 0264-13, 0234-3, 0233-17, 0250-3, 0233-12, and 0250-2, scale 1:200,000

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